



**Name of Property:** Hermitage Hotel  
**City, State:** Nashville, Tennessee  
**Period of Significance:** 1920  
**NHL Criteria:** 1  
**NHL Theme:** II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements  
2. reform movements  
IV. Shaping the Political Landscape  
1. parties, protests, and movements  
4. political ideas, cultures, and theories  
**Previous Recognition:** 1975 National Register of Historic Places  
**National Historic Context:** Women's History – Woman Suffrage and the Passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

**NHL Significance:**

- The Hermitage Hotel opened in 1910, as the suffrage movement became organized in Tennessee. As the nation-wide effort to secure voting rights for women narrowed to Tennessee, local, state, and national figures in suffrage, politics, industry, and media



converged on the hotel during the summer of 1920. The hotel became the headquarters of both the pro- and anti-suffrage forces as they lobbied state legislators, who met constituents and lobbyists within the hotel. The Hermitage Hotel's role in the history of ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment was so significant it earned the name the "Third House" of the Tennessee State Legislature, referring to the extraordinary presence and influence of the major stake-holders and deal-makers convening there.

- Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, stayed in a suite at the Hermitage Hotel for nearly six weeks, guiding the strategy and tactics to win the final vote in the state legislature. Few extant buildings in the United States are associated with Ms. Catt's work to champion woman suffrage, and the Hermitage Hotel is the site where her lifelong ambition and strenuous efforts, and that of thousands of others, came to fruition.

**Integrity:**

- The Hermitage Hotel has a high degree of material integrity due to its continuous use as a hotel since the period of significance. The property evokes the setting, feeling, and workmanship of the period of significance on the exterior and within the interior public spaces, such as the entrance stairwell, lobby, loggia, and ballroom.
- A 1980 rehabilitation project was completed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. It included repair and repointing of exterior brick and terra cotta, replacement of the original windows with new wood windows to match, removal of added acoustical tile ceilings and floor surfaces, and repair and refinishing of the interior wall surfaces and plaster.
- A second rehabilitation project occurred in 1994-1995 and was also completed in compliance with the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*. The majority of this work involved adding new mechanical systems, remodeling of the hotel rooms, some exterior repointing and repainting and restoration of interior features as needed.
- In 2003, research was conducted to determine original paint colors and finishes. Private guest rooms and bathrooms were reconfigured into their current plan and design, new wood windows match the original were installed, as well as all new mechanical systems. The skylight was restored, as were woodwork and plasterwork to their original finishes. New doors to match the original and a new glass and metal canopy based largely on the original design were added at the Sixth Avenue entrance

**Owner of Property:** Historic Hotels of Nashville

**Acreage of Property:** 0.54 acre

**Origins of Nomination:** In anticipation of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment's ratification, the property owner contacted Thomason and Associates for the purpose of preparing an NHL nomination.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- Designation as an NHL would highlight the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tennessee becoming the

36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, thus extending voting rights to women under the U. S. Constitution and help to celebrate this significant event in the history of the United States.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None is known.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of June 25, 2020):**

**National Historic Landmarks Committee Comments:**

**National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommendation:**

The National Historic Landmarks Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, as a National Historic Landmark.

**National Park System Advisory Board Recommendation:**

The National Park System Advisory Board recommends that the Secretary of the Interior designate the Hermitage Hotel, in Nashville, Tennessee, as a National Historic Landmark.

**Secretary of the Interior Action:**

The Secretary of the Interior designated the Hermitage Hotel, in Nashville, Tennessee, as a National Historic Landmark on July 28, 2020.